SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the present Abstract.

On new page 12 of the application, please insert the following new abstract:

--ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a process for the depolymerization of glycosaminoglycanes characterized by the use of electron beam radiation, optionally in the presence of an organic compound selected from the group consisting of ethers, alcohols, aldehydes, amides and formic acid. The invention also relates to the intermediate depolymerized heparin obtained by the process. The intermediate depolymerized heparin can be dissolved in a buffer solution and fractionated by gel permeation for obtaining the desired molecular weight.--

On page 5 of the specification, please delete the entire paragraph that begins on line 5 with "A possible embodiment is represented by Fig. 1 . . .", and ends on line 11 with ". . . in front of the irradiation window)."

On page 5 of the specification, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 24 as follows:

The aspiration generated by these two pumps allows the achievement of ideal conditions for the free circulation of electrons which**[[.]]** ~~Otherwise,~~ otherwise would be slowed down by the air present around the cathode.

On page 6 of the specification, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 12 as follows:

[[11**]]** One liter of 10% sodium heparin solution, free of ~~Heavy~~ heavy metal was prepared. The ~~soution~~ solution ~~is~~ was transferred to ~~the~~ an electron beam apparatus ~~described in Fig. 1~~ and the circulation ~~is~~ was started in mobile descending phase, over porous glass wool tissue of 1mm thickness, with a flow rate of 10l/h by using a peristaltic pump.

~~When starting~~ Starting the EB irradiation at 5 mA and 300 keV, the cooling system ~~is~~ was activated**[[,]]** in order to maintain the temperature between 25 and 35 °C. The depolymerization ~~id~~ was monitored by collecting samples, at fixed intervals, ~~on which~~ and the ~~Molecular Weight~~

molecular weight ~~and~~ of the composition ~~is~~ was determined. The variation in time is shown in Table 1.

The electron beam ~~is~~ was stopped and the collected solution ~~undergoes spray-drying~~ was then spray-dried to obtain the intermediate product which ~~is~~ was fractionated by ~~Gel Permeation~~ gel permeation.